

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A method for preservation and/or treatment against bacterial infection and/or inflammation in an ophthalmological surgery site, comprising applying a pharmaceutical composition containing a viscoelastic substance as a surgical protecting agent for ophthalmology and an antimicrobial agent mixed in the viscoelastic substance, so as to make the pharmaceutical composition directly contact an anterior chamber, endothelium of cornea, lens capsule and a passage of aqueous humor.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the viscoelastic substance is selected from a group consisting of hyaluronic acid, nontoxic salts thereof, chondroitin sulfuric acid, nontoxic salts thereof, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, and a mixture of these compounds.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the viscoelastic substance is a mixture of sodium hyaluronate and chondroitin sulfuric acid.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further contains an anti-inflammatory agent.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the surgery is cataract surgery or glaucoma surgery.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the viscoelastic substance is selected from a group consisting of hyaluronic acid, nontoxic salts thereof, chondroitin sulfuric acid, nontoxic salts thereof, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, and a mixture of these compounds.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the viscoelastic substance is a mixture of sodium hyaluronate and chondroitin sulfuric acid.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further contains an anti-inflammatory agent.

31. (new) A method for preservation and/or treatment against infection and/or inflammation in an ophthalmological surgery site, comprising:

applying a pharmaceutical composition to an intraocular site, the pharmaceutical composition including a viscoelastic substance and an antimicrobial agent mixed in the viscoelastic substance;

performing surgery; and

removing the majority of the pharmaceutical composition from the intraocular site while leaving residual traces of the pharmaceutical composition in the intraocular site sufficient to exhibit at least one of an antimicrobial effect and an antimycotic effect.

32. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the intraocular site in the applying step includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of an anterior chamber, endothelium of cornea, lens capsule, and a passage of aqueous humor.

33. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the applying step further comprises injecting the pharmaceutical composition to the intraocular site to prevent the intraocular site from collapsing during surgery.

34. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the removing step further comprises using suction to remove substantially all of the pharmaceutical composition.

35. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the viscoelastic substance in the applying step comprises a member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, nontoxic salts thereof, chondroitin sulfuric acid, nontoxic salts thereof, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

36. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the residual traces of the pharmaceutical composition in the removing step exhibit an antimicrobial effect for about 2 to about 4 hours after surgery.

37. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the ophthalmological surgery is cataract surgery or glaucoma surgery.

38. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the pharmaceutical composition in the applying set further comprises an anti-inflammatory agent.

39. (new) A method for preservation and/or treatment against infection and/or inflammation during cataract surgery comprising:

preparing a pharmaceutical composition by adding at least one of an antimicrobial agent and an anti-inflammatory agent to a viscoelastic substance to form the pharmaceutical composition;

applying the pharmaceutical composition to prevent the anterior chamber from collapsing and to form the posterior capsule, further protecting the endothelium of the cornea;

performing surgery on the eye; and

thereafter, removing the majority of the pharmaceutical composition while leaving traces of the pharmaceutical composition in the anterior chamber in a sufficient amount to provide at least one of an antimicrobial effect, antimycotic effect, and anti-inflammatory effect.

40. (new) The method according to claim 39, wherein the viscoelastic substance in the preparing step comprises at least one of sodium hyaluronate and sodium chondroitin sulfuric acid.

41. (new) The method according to claim 39, wherein the antimicrobial agent in the preparing step comprises levofloxacin or ofloxacin.

42. (new) The method according to claim 39, wherein the anti-inflammatory agent in the preparing step comprises at least one of a steroid, nonsteroidal antipyretic and analgesic, and antiphlogistic agent.

43. (new) The method according to claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutical composition in the preparing step includes an antimicrobial agent and an anti-inflammatory agent.